SENSES-SHATTERING 2ND ISSUE!
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STEEL
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN
THE MURDEROUS MENACE OF
The MINERAL MASTER
WOOZ!
FOOL! WHAT THREAT IS MERE STEEL TO ONE WHO CONTROLS ALL METALS!!?

STEEL, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN, Vol. 1, No. 2, April, 1978. Published monthly [with the exception of May, July, Sept., Nov., and Jan.] by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1978 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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A MrBC Scan!

HANK, LET'S NEVER ARGUE AGAIN-- PROMISE?

I JUST WANT TO FORGET THAT AWFUL WAR IN EUROPE, AND THAT CRAZY MAN IN BERLIN... ALL I WANT IS YOU, HANK...

...ONLY YOU.

I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, GLORIA BUT I'VE SEEN THE HORROR HITLER'S CAPABLE OF...

THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE MARINES... TO BE READY WHEN WAR FINALLY COMES...

NO!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WAR.

THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME FEEL SO HELPLESS ...IT ALL SEEMS SO FUTILE...

IT'S NOT AN EASY THING FOR ANYONE, GLORIA.

BUT SOMEDAY IT WILL BE OVER...

...AND THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN PROMISE YOU...

"HOLDING GLORIA, I COULD SENSE HER FATHER'S EYES AS HE WATCHED US FROM THE HOUSE... AND I WONDERED WHAT GILBERT GILES WAS THINKING JUST THEN...

"I WONDERED IF HE SUSPECTED THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE HANK HAYWOOD WHOSE BODY HE HELPED REBUILD WITH ARTIFICIAL PARTS--AND THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN CALLED STEEL!"

ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ABOUT THAT COSTUMED VIGILANTE...

IT SEEMS HE'S EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS, STIRRING UP WAR FEVER LIKE SOME MILITARISTIC MADMAN!

AMERICA IS BARELY OUT OF THE DEPRESSION... AND THE ONE THING WE DON'T NEED IS A COSTLY MILITARY VENTURE OVERSEAS...

MYSTERY MA

LOOKING AT THIS "STEEL," I HAVE THE STRANGEST SENSATION...

...AS THOUGH I WERE STARING AT SOMEONE I KNOW!

WHY DOES THAT MAKE ME THINK OF HANK?

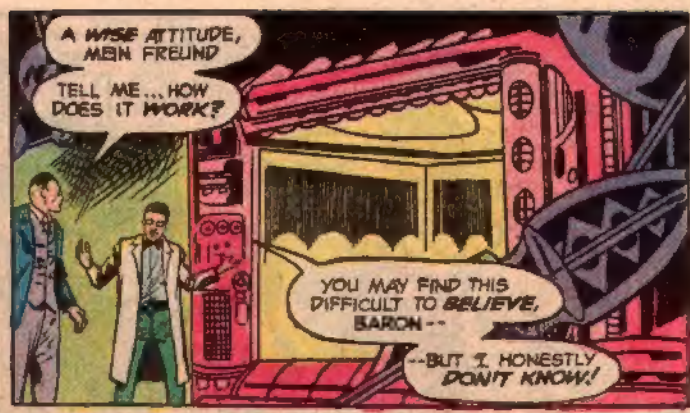
THE DEAR BOY WAS ALMOST KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION SET BY THE SABOTEURS AT HIS MARINE BASE -- HIS DEATH WOULD HAVE BROKEN GLORIA'S HEART...

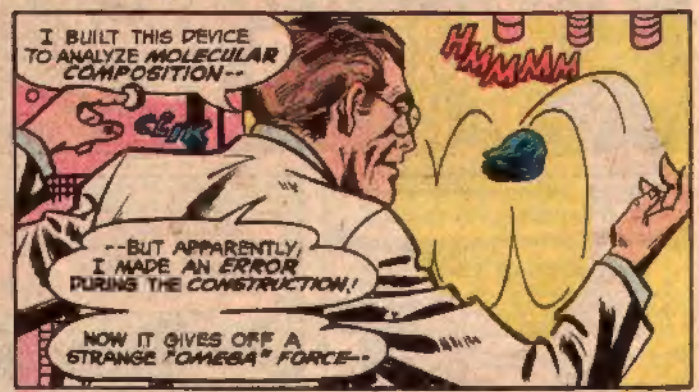
--AND IT WAS ONLY BY USING HANK'S OWN BIO-RETENTIVE FORMULA THAT I WAS ABLE TO SALVAGE HIS BODY, OPERATING TO REPLACE DAMAGED SKELETAL STRUCTURE WITH STEEL TUBING--

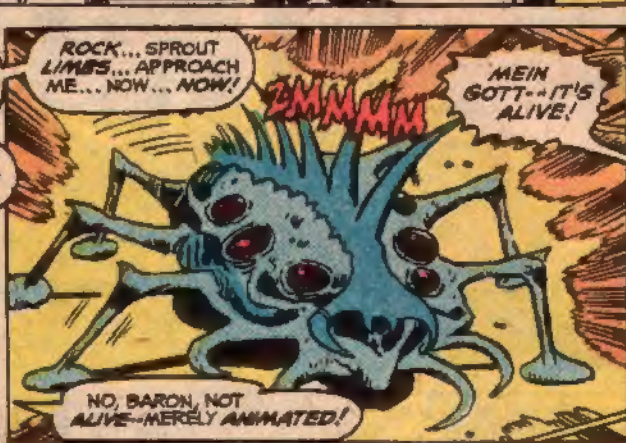
"--SCARRED LUNGS WITH ARTIFICIAL PUMPS, AND MAIMED MUSCLES WITH RADIUM-POWERED MICRO-MOTORS!

"THE OPERATION SAVED HANK'S LIFE, PREVENTING THE TRAGIC WASTE OF A BRILLIANT MIND--BUT ALSO GIVING HANK ENORMOUS PHYSICAL POWER!

"IT WAS ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THIS THAT STEEL APPEARED -- YET THERE CAN'T BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN HANK AND STEEL -- CAN THERE?"







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EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STAY BACK! THE MACHINE'S STILL ACTIVATED--
DO NOT TRY TO STRUGGLE, DOKTOR!
BRUNO WILL MAKE THIS AS SWIFT AS HE--WHAT?
YANKING AWAY FROM BRUNO--?
THE MACHINE! OH GOD, I'M TUMBLING INTO--
--THE "OMEGA" FIELD!
MMMMM
B-BUT THE FIELD'S NEVER--NEVER BEEN TESTED ON LIVING CREATURES!
ALL THIS ENERGY--POURING THROUGH ME--IT'S LIKE I'M FREEZING UP INSIDE!
I-I CAN'T BREATHE--
MMMM
--I CAN'T THINK!
HEAVEN HELP ME, I'M CHANGING--
AARRHH
YES! I AM CHANGING--INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN MORTAL--
A BEING OF SUPERLATIVE POWER!
EVEN THE MATERIAL OF MY CLOTHES HAS ALTERED--
--I AM--REBORN!
MEIN LIEBER GOTT...
MOAB, YOUR SKIN... IT'S BECOME LIKE A THING OF MOLTEN ROCK...!

IMBECILE! IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SEE?

MORE THAN MY FORM HAS CHANGED! WITH A GESTURE, I CAN CONTROL THE "OMEGA" FIELD! I CAN CHANGE MINERALS INTO MONSTERS--

--I CAN MAKE MIRACLES!

BARON, THE STONE WALLS-- THE MARBLE FLOOR--

--THEY'RE COMING ALIVE!

EVERY ROCK, EVERY ORE INGOT, EVERY SCRAP OF METAL, EVERY JEWEL--EVERY MINERAL WHICH EVER RESTED WITHIN THE EARTH--

--ALL OF IT IS MINE TO COMMAND, MINE TO CHANGE AT WILL!

SO FLEE, YOU PATHETIC FOOLS! I SEE YOUR TREACHERY NOW!

HAD I THE TIME, I'D DESTROY YOU--BUT I MUST THINK, AND CONSIDER MY NEW POWERS-- AND PLAN!

HERR BARON, P-PERHAPS HE IS NOT AS STRONG AS HE PRETENDS!

P-PERHAPS BRUNO SHOULD RETURN--BRUNO SHOULD TEACH HIM NOT TO MAKE FOOLS OF PRUSSIANS--

ARE YOU MAD? BE THANKFUL WE'VE ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!

BESIDES, MOAG MAY SERVE OUR CAUSE EVEN NOW!

WAIT... AND WE SHALL SEE!

POWER! POWER TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS!

AGAINST THIS, THE WAR-MONGERS WILL BE HELPLESS! FOR I AM MASTER OF THE EARTH'S OWN FLESH--

I AM MINERAL MASTER, AND I WILL PROTECT MY LAND FROM WAR--

AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME--WILL DIE!

HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL: AFTER LEAVING GLORIA GILES AT HER FATHER'S HOME IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, I STILL HAD TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LEFT OUT OF A FORTY-EIGHT HOUR PASS--

"--AND I'D MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO USE THOSE HOURS TO ADVANCE A PROJECT NOT INVOLVING HANK HEYWOOD'S LOVE LIFE!

"THAT'S WHY, THE NEXT MORNING, I FOUND MYSELF PLUMMETING THROUGH THE WINTER SKY OVER WASHINGTON, D.C., NOT AS HANK HEYWOOD--

"--BUT AS STEEL, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN!"

THAT GUY'S A FRUITCAKE! JUMPING AT 2,000 FEET--WITHOUT A 'CHUTE!

GEEZ! I DON'T WANT TO LOOK--!

I WISH I HAD A CAMERA FOR A PICTURE OF MY PILOT'S EXPRESSION WHEN I WENT OUT THE CABIN DOOR! HE MUST HAVE HAD A STROKE!

STILL, THIS IS A DEMONSTRATION FOR THE ARMY BRASS--

--TO SHOW THEM WHAT I CAN DO--

--AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE GOT TO BE DRAMATIC! I'VE GOT QUITE AN AUDIENCE FOR THIS STUNT--

"--CONGRESSMAN JACK KULHAMMER OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, HIS DAUGHTER, KATHY--SEVERAL MAJORS AND COLONELS--

"--AND KATHY KULHAMMER'S BEAU, NEWSPAPER MAGNATE [illegible]!"

TALK ABOUT YOUR MOVERS AND SHAKERS--!

IF I'M EVER TO CONVINCE THE WAR DEPARTMENT OF MY USEFULNESS AS A HUMAN "SECRET WEAPON"--THEN THIS IS THE BEST SHOT I'LL EVER HAVE!

NOW, IF I CAN JUST--NO!

A GUST OF WIND--BLOWING ME OFF-COURSE! I'LL MISS THE PLANE--!

IT'S GOING TO TAKE-- ALL MY ARTIFICIAL MUSCLES--

--THE FULL POWER OF MY MICRO-MOTORS-- TO THRUST MYSELF--

--FLIP AROUND--

--LIKE A HUMAN GLIDER--! HAVE TO STRETCH! ANOTHER INCH--

--JUST ONE MORE INCH--

GOT IT!

LOVE! I GRABBED THE WING SO HARD-- MY FINGERS CLAWED RIDGES IN THE METAL! GUESS I DON'T REALLY KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH!

UH-HUH! AND I THOUGHT ERROL FLYNN WAS COCKY IN "THE DAWN PATROL"!

I SAW THIS WITH MY OWN EYES--

--BUT I AIN'T NEVER GONNA BELIEVE IT!

"WITH A SHOW LIKE THAT, I THOUGHT I HAD IT MADE--BUT I'D FORGOTTEN THE NEAR-LEGENDARY SKEPTICISM OF CONGRESSMAN KULHAMMER..."

TRICKS? GIMMICKS? CONGRESSMAN, BE SERIOUS!

WOULD I RISK MY LIFE FOR A FRAUD?

MISTER, I MAY BE A GEORGIA BOY, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WAS BORN YESTERDAY!

NO MAN ALIVE CAN DO WHAT YOU JUST DID, WHICH MEANS YOU'RE AN ANGEL--OR A CHARLATAN!

PRAISED, SIR, I BELIEVE THE LATTER! GENTLEMEN, I SUGGEST WE LEAVE!

YOU MEAN THE MAN, STEEL. NOW WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG--BACK TO BARNUM AND BAILEY'S?

COMING, KATHY!

OF COURSE, EDWARD, DEAR.

KATHY KULHAMMER PASSED ME A NOTE--? "LOVED YOUR ACT--"

"--WHEN YOU'RE IN NEW YORK-- CALL ME"?

AN ACT? IS THAT WHAT THEY THINK?

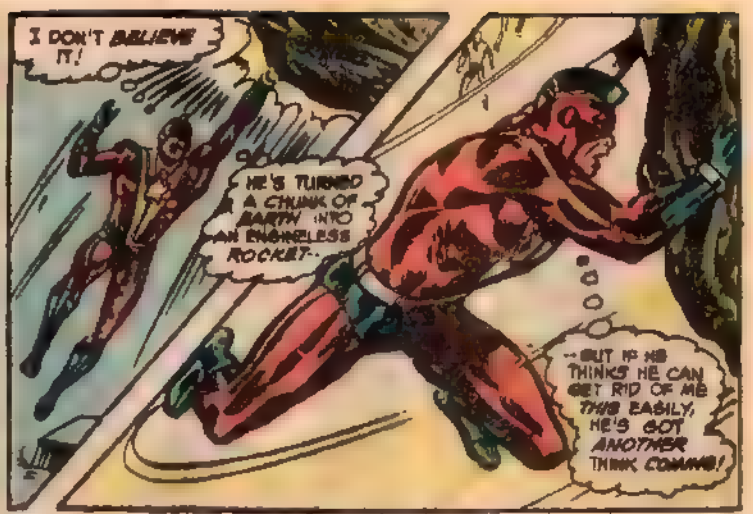
HOW COULD THEY BE SO STUPID? OUR COUNTRY'S ALMOST AT WAR, AND THEY--

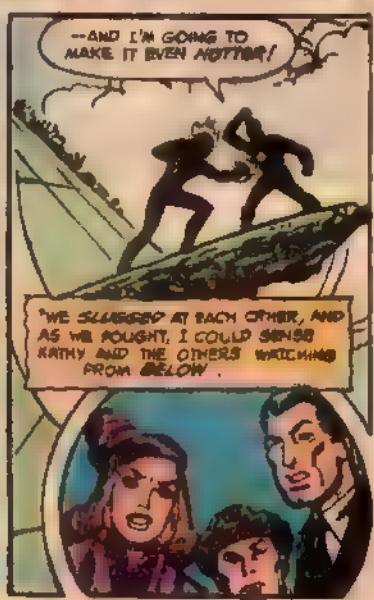
BAWHOOM

GOOD LORD!

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

AN EXPLOSION, AND IT'S WRECKED THAT HANGAR CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL PROTOTYPE BOMBERS!
SMELLS LIKE SULFUR GAS--MORE LIKE SOME KIND OF VOLCANIC ERUPTION THAN A BOMB!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE -- ISN'T IT?
WAIT! A FIGURE IN THE SMOKE WHO--OR WHAT--?
AH, THAT NEW MILITARIST ADVENTURER--STEEL!
HOW CONVENIENT, TO ENCOUNTER YOU THIS EARLY IN MY CAMPAIGN, WAR-HAWK!
IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPOSE OF YOU--
--THUS!
?
EH, WHAT?
ZZZAAAK
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A GERNSBACK SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE!
A GESTURE, A BEAM OF SHIMMERING ENERGY, AND SUDDENLY THE GROUND FORMS A BEAR-TRAP AROUND MY LEG!
AN ORDINARY MAN WOULD'VE BEEN MAIMED--
I'VE GOT OTHER IDEAS!
IF I CAN CATCH THIS GUY IN FRONT OF THE BEAMS--
EH? DUCKING? HOW CAN SOMEONE SO OBVIOUSLY HEAVY MOVE SO--
KRAK
--BUT NOT THIS "MILITARIST ADVENTURER"!
HEY!
KTAK SMAK
KSMAK WHAK
EVER STAND IN A RAIN OF ROCK CHIPS, FOOL?
PITY I CAN'T STAY TO WATCH YOUR ESCAPE, BUT MY BAGGAGE HERE IS DONE--





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EARLY THE NEXT DAY, AT THE BROADCASTING CENTER FOR ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST-KNOWN RADIO NETWORKS...

--SO REMEMBER, IT'S CRUNCHIES EVERY DAY, FOR THE TASTE KIDS LOVE, AND THE VITAMINS MOM NEEDS!

CRUNCHIES, THE TOASTED CORN CEREAL THAT BRINGS YOU-- AARRRK

MILTIE! THIS MICROPHONE-- YOU GOTTA HELP-- IT'S CHOKING ME!

AARRRK!

WHAT IS THIS, A JOKE?

WHOEVER HEARD OF A MIKE MAKING LIKE A BOA?

WHATTAGLOOM! HE'S TURNIN' ALL SORTSA BLUE!

THIS IS NO GAG!

WHATEVER ELSE I MAY DO, I ASSURE YOU THE MINERAL MASTER DOES NOT JEST!

MAN? HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?

SOMEBODY CALL THE SECURITY GUARDS AND GET THIS GUY BUMPED OUT ON HIS--

SILENCE, LITTLE MAN!

UH, MILTIE, I THINK WE BETTER DO WHAT HE SAYS...

LOOK AT HIS HANDS...

GIVE ME YOUR MICROPHONE, FOOL! AMERICA MUST HEAR ME--

--FOR MY MESSAGE IS ONE WHICH THE WAR-LORDS DARE NOT IGNORE!

YOUR MICROPHONE, I SAY!

GIVE IT TO HIM, MILTIE... JUST GIVE IT TO HIM!

MANNY HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL: "I WAS JUST FILLING OUT SOME REQUISITION FORMS IN THE QUARTERMASTER BARRACKS AT MY BASE, WHEN I HEARD A VOICE OVER THE RADIO... A VOICE THAT MANNY COUSIN MILTIE'S..."

PEOPLE OF AMERICA, HEAR ME!

NO MORE MUST AMERICA WASTE HER YOUNG MEN IN FOREIGN WARS! WE MUST REMOVE THE CONFLICT IN EUROPE--

...AND WE MUST DESTROY THE MEN WHO DEFEND IT!

I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANYWHERE... IT'S THE MAN I FOUGHT IN WASHINGTON.

IT'S DANGEROUS TO SNEAK OFF THE BASE IN DAYLIGHT, BUT I'VE NO CHOICE!

I JUST HOPE MY SUPERIOR-- MAJOR MORTON-- DOESN'T NOTICE I'M GONE!

HEYWOOD? PRIVATE HEYWOOD! WHERE IS THAT GOLDBRICK?

EVERYTIME I TURN AROUND, HE'S ON LEAVE OR IN SICKBAY!

THAT BOY'S JUST NOT OUT OUT FOR THE MARINES!

"FROM LONG ISLAND TO MANHATTAN, IT'S THIRTY MINUTES BY CAR...

"BUT WHEN YOU CAN RUN AS FAST AS I CAN, YOU CAN CUT THAT TIME BY TEN MINUTES--NOT COUNTING A FEW SECONDS SPENT BUSTING DOWN DOORS--!"

STEEL!

WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, MILTIE, BUT HE'S LIKE A BULLDOZER!

YUMM!

BWHAM!

YOU'VE GOT MORE MOUTH THAN BRAINS, BUSTER!

IF YOU HADN'T SPENT ALL THIS TIME RANTING, YOU'D HAVE BEEN LONG GONE BY THE TIME I GOT HERE--TO SAY NOTHING OF THE POLICE--

--AND THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND ME!

I'LL KILL YOU--

YOU AREN'T KILLING ANYONE, YOU JACKASS, AND YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY MORE SPEECHES, EITHER--

--ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT DESTROYING THE MEN IN OUR GOVERNMENT! THEY MAY MAKE SOME PIE-HEADED MISTAKES--

--BUT NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO KILL THEM FOR IT!

DO YOU HEAR?

MADMAN! WE'VE GONE THROUGH THE WINDOW!

AND WE'RE FORTY STORIES UP!

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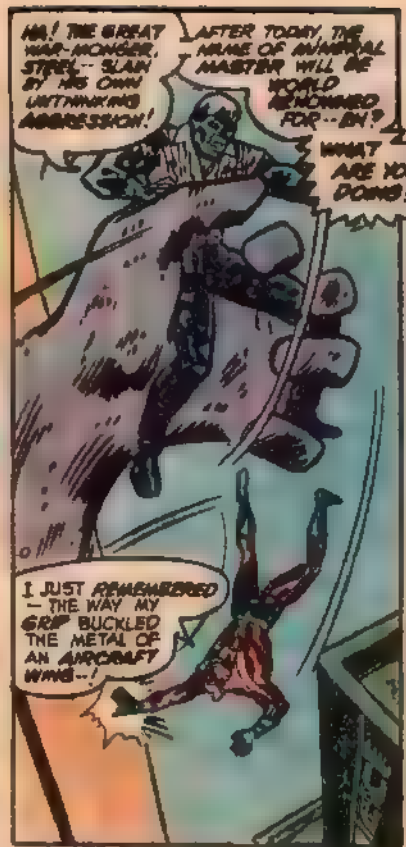
I, AT LEAST, CAN SAVE MYSELF BY ANIMATING THE MATERIALS IN THIS CONCRETE WALL!
BUT YOU... YOU'RE DOOMED!
GOOD LORD, HE MAY BE RIGHT!
I GOT SO ANGRY, I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT I WAS DOING!
NO CARS BELOW TO BREAK MY FALL—AND TOO MANY PEDESTRIANS TO EVEN TRY IT!

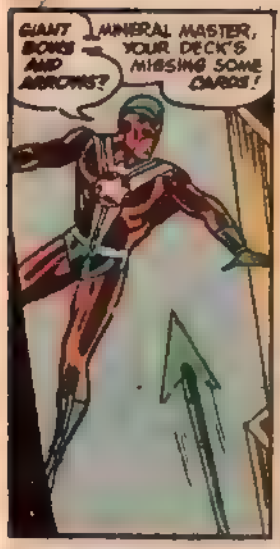

HA! THE GREAT WAR-MONGER, STEEL—SLAIN BY HIS OWN UNTHINKING AGGRESSION!
AFTER TODAY, THE NAME OF ANIMAL MASTER WILL BE WORLD RENOWNED FOR—EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I JUST REMEMBERED—THE WAY MY GRIP BUCKLED THE METAL OF AN AIRCRAFT WING—!

IF I CAN GRAB THE CONCRETE—DIG MY FINGERS IN—
—MAYBE I CAN BREAK MY FALL—GET A HANDHOLD!
HURTS LIKE HELL! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE STEEL MESH IN MY GLOVES...
—MY HANDS WOULD BE SLASHED BY THE FRICTION!
BUT IT'S WORKING! I'VE STOPPED!

THEN YOU'VE SAVED YOURSELF—ONLY TO DIE!
OBSERVE! A FLICK OF MY HAND, AND I ACTIVATE THE "OMEGA" FIELD—ANIMATING THE IRON IN THAT LAMP POST BELOW!

—TURNING IT INTO THE MEANS OF YOUR DESTRUCTION!
CRIPES! THIS IS WORSE'N THAT "WAR OF THE WORLDS" RADIO SHOW!
THAT WAS JUST A PROGRAM—
BUT THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!

THWANNG!


GIANT BOWS AND ARROWS?
MINERAL MASTER, YOUR DECK'S MISSING SOME CARDS!

ARROWS MAY BE GREAT FOR BULLSEYES, BUT I'M NO STATIONARY TARGET--
--AND YOU'RE NO WILLIAM TELL!

BUT I'M AN EASY-GOING KIND OF GUY, SO I'LL LET YOU TRY AGAIN--

CATCH!
SPLANG

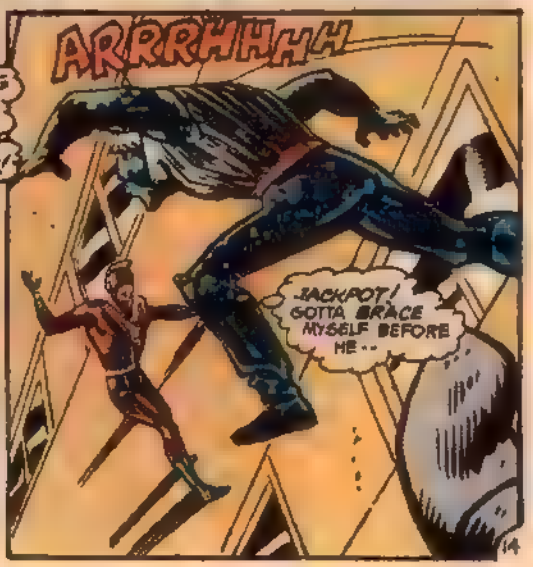
I WILL NOT BE MOCKED!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND MY POWER! HOW CAN THIS ARROW HURT ME--

--WHEN I CAN CHANGE INTO A FLOCK OF METAL BIRDS, WITH THE MEREST GESTURE?
YOU ARE OUTCLASSED, WAR-HAWK!

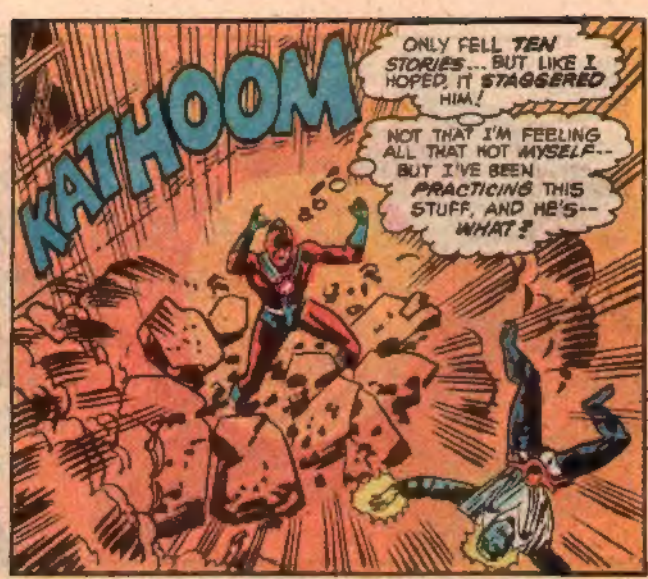
OUT-POWERED, MAYBE -- BUT OUTCLASSED?
BY YOU?
YOU'VE GOT AS MUCH CLASS AS A FLEA-EATING BABOON!

SILENCE! I WILL NOT BE A SUBJECT OF DERISION!
I AM A MODEL LAMBRETTE --A MAN OF SCIENCE, OF LEARNING!
I CANNOT ABIDE RIDICULE!

THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECTED... AND IF I CAN GET YOU ANGRY ENOUGH, MAYBE I CAN MAKE YOU DO SOMETHING AS STUPID AS I DID WHEN I CRASHED US THROUGH THAT WINDOW!
AWW, M.M., IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE RIDICULED--
--THEN WHY ARE YOU SO RIDICULOUS?


ARRRRHHHHH
JACKPOT! GOTTA BRACE MYSELF BEFORE HE--

WHAMM

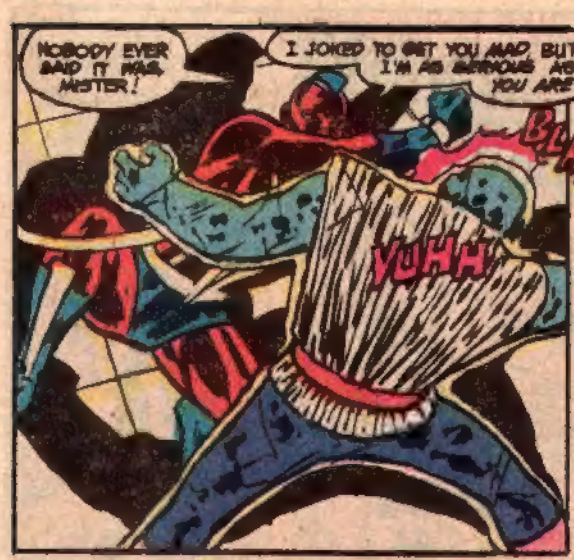

KATHOOM
ONLY FELL TEN STORIES... BUT LIKE I HOPED, IT STAGGERED HIM!
NOT THAT I'M FEELING ALL THAT HOT MYSELF-- BUT I'VE BEEN PRACTICING THIS STUFF, AND HE'S-- WHAT?

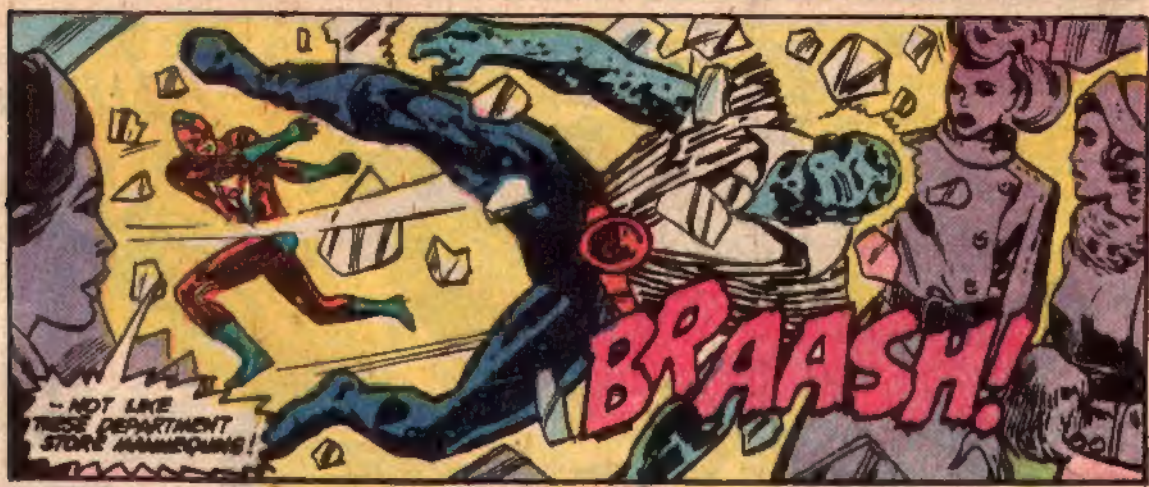
NOW HE'S RISING, LOOKING TWICE AS STRONG AS BEFORE!
GREAT SCOTT, HE'S LIKE THE TROLLS OF NORSE LEGEND — DRAWING HIS STRENGTH FROM CONTACT WITH THE EARTH!
HE REALLY IS A MINERAL MASTER--

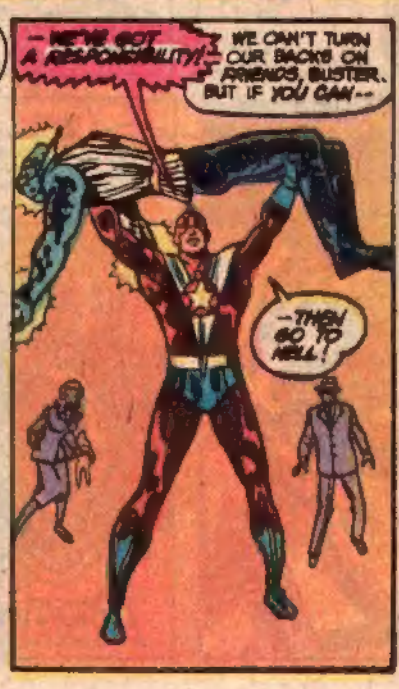
UHHH
THROWING CHUNKS OF PAVEMENT-- BLINDING ME--!

BPOW!
I'LL DO FAR MORE THAN BLIND YOU, STEEL--

--I'LL PULP YOU!
MINE IS A SACRED MISSION, TO SAVE AMERICA FROM ANOTHER DEVASTATING WAR!
THIS IS NO JOKE!
KRAM







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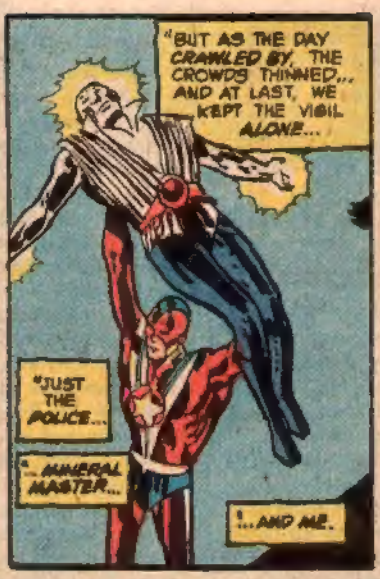

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH

STEEL FILINGS

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How does a new super-character come into being? What things influence a creator in developing a concept for such a character? There are as many answers as there are super-heroes in comics. In the case of **STEEL, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN,** it started when Gerry Conway was writing about one of the all-time great super heroines, **WONDER WOMAN.** The Amazing Amazon's adventures were taking place in a different period than most of the current super-heroes, the era of World War II. The setting required Gerry to do his homework on the period, and research the era thoroughly. As he studied the culture and society of the time, he became fascinated with the events and situations that were taking place . . . and with the reactions of the American people to the war in its early stages.

When America entered World War II, it did so completely, with a commitment to go in and stop the German advance, and free the conquered peoples from the Nazi tyranny. This complete committment has overshadowed the fact that before Pearl Harbor, the decision was not nearly so clear-cut in the minds of the American people. There were strong feelings on both sides of the question, with student protests against the war and the "America First" type groups demanding that the U.S. let Europe take care of its own problems. These contrasted the groups who felt that America should immediately enter the war to bring about the end of the Third Reich as quickly as possible. Ironically, the division in public opinion paralleled what would happen later in the 1960's with the Viet Nam War.

Gerry wanted to put a character in this setting who had been to Germany, and who knew some of the realities of the situation. Thus, he would be committed to the war, and face not only the Nazi menace, but an America divided over the question of the war. With this in mind, Gerry began to develop the character of **STEEL.**

Modern technology was just coming into its own in the 1940's, with great advances being made in nearly every area. Nuclear power and the splitting of the atom loomed on the horizon. Even so, many of the things that are now scientific matter-of-fact would have seemed like imaginative science fiction to the people of the time. Such things as organ transplants were inconceivable with the science of the period. What would happen then, if some of the science of today and the near future were introduced at that point in time? Gerry wanted to explore these possibilities in the creation of **STEEL** and his powers.

Originally, Gerry had conceived **STEEL** as less of a costumed super-hero, and more of a soldier. In fact, the original title of the series was THE SUPER-SOLDIER. He was to be a warrior with an indestructible quality. The original costume that Gerry designed had, he said, "a more juggernaut type of quality." But as the character developed in conversations with Publisher Jenette Kahn and Managing Editor Joe Orlando, it grew in the direction of a more partriotically-clad super-hero. Gradually, the direction of the character shifted slightly. It was still the same story, but with the emphasis moved towards a super-hero instead of a super-soldier.

Editor Al Milgrom and artist Don Heck worked out the costume together. The basic inspiration, of course, was the American flag, and as Don explained, they simply sat down and put together various pieces of the costume until they had the one they felt was the best.

Don worked up some sample pages with the costume (which you can see on this page) and the whole project began to take form. Thus was born STEEL, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN, forged in the crucible of the greatest war in history.

Next issue in this space, we hope to have your comments on our first issue, and we want to invite all of you to drop us a line and let us know what you think of our efforts on this new creation. All of your comments, suggestions and criticisms will be carefully read and considered. Until then, take care, People—Cary Burkett